

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 AID-05 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SIL-01 CCO-00

OTPE-00 FCC-01 OC-05 BIB-01 L-03 DOTE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3381

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALY'S HOT AUTUMN BEGINS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CONCURRENT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE EQUI-  
NOX THE LONG AWAITED QUOTE HOT AUTUMN UNQUOTE SEEMS TO HAVE  
BEGUN IN ITALY AFFECTING BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE GOVERNMEN-  
TAL SECTORS. WORKERS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY WILL INITIATE  
THE FALL STRIKE CAMPAIGN IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WITH A THREE  
HOUR NATIONAL STRIKE SCHEDULED BY THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-  
UIL (CCU) FOR OCTOBER 2. IN THE MEANTIME STRIKES BY POSTAL,  
RAILWAY AND GOVERNMENT WORKERS ARE TYING UP PUBLIC SERVICES.  
END SUMMARY.

2. APPROXIMATELY 1,200,000 WORKERS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

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WILL STOP WORK ON OCTOBER 2 TO PROTEST DECLINING EMPLOYMENT

LEVELS. UNIFIED CCU TEXTILE CATEGORY UNION (FULTA) SECRETARY GENERAL SERGIO GARAYINI DECLARED IN A STATEMENT REPORTED IN THE COMMUNIST DAILY L'UNITA THAT 15,000 TEXTILE WORKERS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE TOTAL DROP IN EMPLOYMENT DUE TO FREEZES ON NEW HIRINGS IS ESTIMATED, HOWEVER, AT 40,000. MOREOVER, ANOTHER 110,000 TEXTILE WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY ON PARTIAL WORK WEEKS, DRAWING BENEFITS FROM THE WAGE SUPPLEMENT FUND (WSF). 150 FIRMS WITH 45,000 EMPLOYEES ARE IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY ACCORDING TO GARAVINI. THE SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY DRAMATIC IN LOMBARDY, ONE OF ITALY'S TRADITIONAL TEXTILE REGIONS, WHERE 4,000 WORKERS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF; EMPLOYMENT HAS DROPPED BY 15,000; 60,000 ARE IN THE WSF; AND 50 FIRMS WITH 13,000 EMPLOYEES ARE CONSIDERING CLOSING DOWN PRODUCTION. FULTA IS DEMANDING THREE KINDS OF ACTION. A) IT IS ASKING GOVERNMENT TO MODIFY THE TAX SYSTEM AND CREDIT AND INVESTMENT INCENTIVES IN ORDER TO ASSIST HARD HIT TEXTILE FIRMS. B) IT IS ASKING THE LOMBARDY REGIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION; THE ORGANIZATION OF A BANKING CONSORTIUM TO GUARANTEE CREDIT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS IN DIFFICULTY; AND THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES ENCOURAGING THE AMALGAMATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS. C) FINALLY, IT IS ASKING THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION FEDERTESSILE TO POSTPONE PROJECTED LAYOFFS.

3. IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR THE CCU UNIFIED CATEGORY UNION FLC HAS ANNOUNCED A TWO HOUR STRIKE FOR OCTOBER 1 AND ANOTHER WORK STOPPAGE ON OCTOBER 20 TO PROMOTE EXPANSION OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS.

4. IN VIEW OF A MANAGEMENT DECISION TO REDUCE ITS LABOR FORCE, THE WORKERS AT PIRELLI RUBBER HAVE ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF ARTICULATED WORK STOPPAGES AND A THREE HOUR NATIONAL STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1. SIMILARLY, THE APPROXIMATELY 1500 WORKERS AT INNOCENTI DI LAMBRATE WALKED OUT FOR THREE HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 29 IN A STRIKE AGAINST REDUCTIONS IN EMPLOYMENT LEVELS.

5. IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS STRUCK ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 TO PROMOTE REFORM OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM INCLUDING THE ASSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TWO DAY CCU POSTAL WORK STOPPAGE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A 48 HOUR STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 10-11 BY THE NEO FASCIST CONFEDERATION CISNAL.

6. THE COUNTRY'S RAILWAYS ARE NEARLY PARALYZED BY A SERIES OF STRIKES CALLED BY THE CCU, THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY CUB (UNITARY COMMITTEE OF THE BASE) AND THE AUTONOMOUS FISAFS. CCU MEMBERS SHUT DOWN VARIOUS RAILWAY LINES ON SEPTEMBER 27

AND 28. THE CUB OF ROME AND NAPLES, WHO CONTROL TICKET SALES, HAVE CALLED A 48 HOUR STRIKE FOR SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1. THE CCU WILL GO OUT ON STRIKE AGAIN FOR 24 HOURS ON OCTOBER 7 AND FISAFS WILL BEGIN A SERIES OF WORK STOPPAGES ON OCTOBER 8. IN THE MEANTIME, THE AUTONOMOUS AIRLINE PILOT'S UNION ANPAC HAS ATTENUATED ITS SERIES OF ARTICULATED STRIKES PENDING ABATEMENT OF THE RAILWAY WORK STOPPAGES.

7. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BELONGING TO THE CCU HAVE ANNOUNCED A 24 HOUR STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 3 TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOI TO IMPLEMENT A PREVIOUSLY AGREED PROGRAM OF JOB RE-CLASSIFICATION.

8. COMMENT. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CCU IS NOT ENTIRELY PLEASED WITH THE RESUMPTION THIS FALL OF INTENSE STRIKE ACTIVITY WHICH LOGICALLY IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH OTHER POLICY OBJECTIVES AIMED AT ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE GOI. PRESSURES FROM THE RANK AND FILE, WHICH FIND AN IMPORTANT OUTLET IN THE AUTONOMOUS UNIONS, HAVE, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY FORCED THE CCU TO RESUME A MORE BELLIGERENT POSTURE. VOLPE

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